

THE WAR DAY BY DAY

Fifty Years Ago.

January 21, 1864—An Attempt Was Made to Burn the Home of Jefferson Davis in Richmond, in Which an Official Reception Had Been Held the Evening Before—The Act Attributed to Colored Servants.

(Written expressly for The Herald.)

Fifty years ago today, in the small hours of the night, an attempt was made to burn the home of Jefferson Davis in Richmond.

An official reception had been held in the spacious "White House of the Confederacy" the evening before. The adults of the family had not completed their preparations for retiring, when, shortly after midnight, smoke was smelled, coming from the basement.

The inmates of the house being all awake, except the children, a hasty search revealed the source of the smoke. A fire was burning briskly in a woodpile, directly under the main building. A storehouse had been broken open and certain goods seemed to have been taken. This attack upon the private security of the president of the Confederacy

Jones quotes a newspaper account of the escape, as follows:

"On Saturday night last the police were informed of the fact that Colonel Davis, a negro in the employ of President Davis, had run away. Having received some clue of his whereabouts they succeeded in finding him in a few hours after receiving the information of his escape, and lodged him in the upper station house."

"When caught there was found on his person much enough, consisting of cold chicken, ham, preserves, bread, etc., to last him for a long journey, and a large sum of money he had stolen from his master."

"Some time after being locked up, he called to the keeper of the prison, and told him for a long journey, and a large sum of money he had stolen from his master. When President Davis' next reception after the night of the fire came around, the 'Rebel War Clerk' attended, though

age of provisions was felt in the president's house as well as elsewhere in the Confederacy—the troubles with the servants and the fear of violence against her husband or children, bore heavily.

Her family at that time consisted of Jefferson, aged nine; Margaret, aged seven; Joseph, aged four, and Willie, an infant in arms. (Varina, "the daughter of the Confederacy"—Winnie Davis—was born in the following June.)

Both Mr. and Mrs. Davis appeared before the public as if unconcerned over their home troubles. That these did not end with the fire or the departure of the renegades is shown by an entry Mrs. Chestnut made on February 9 in her journal: "A few trouble at the president's house; their trunk man, Robert, broken out with the smallpox."

On Jefferson Davis the alarms and dangers at home seemed to have no more effect than those in the wider field of the Confederacy.

He continued to give his public weekly receptions as before, and all who attended them marveled at his serene bearing and expression of untroubled courage in the face of the dark clouds were hanging over the Confederate States.

Jefferson Davis was now the Confederacy, as a King of France had been the State. It fell to the State, yet he also, with his head high and his usual charming manners in society unchanged.

When President Davis' next reception after the night of the fire came around, the "Rebel War Clerk" attended, though

WOMAN AND THE HOME

Edited by JESSIE CHANDLER HAYES

Eleanor Gates, Author of "The Poor Little Rich Girl" Has Been Doing Interesting Things Ever Since She Was a Little Girl on a Cattle Ranch.

By MARY B. BULLETT.

Eleanor Gates has been doing interesting things ever since, as a little girl, she herded Dakota cattle and read Sir Walter Scott at one and the same time. From a Dakota cattle ranch to the field of the drama may seem a long jump. But no one can deny that Miss Gates has negotiated it successfully.

Within the last year her first two plays have been produced in New York. One of these, "The Poor Little Rich Girl," is still running in this country, and is also making a hit in London. But before Miss Gates put into that play the story of the lonely city child, she had written a book telling the story of the lonely child of the plains—and that story was largely her own experience.

Her father was a grandson of Richard Henry Dana, of Boston, and her mother was an English woman. When her father went out West and started a cattle ranch he took with him an excellent library. So when his little daughter used to ride around on her pony, keeping an eye on the grazing herd and at the same time using the pommet of her saddle as a reading desk, she had plenty of books with which to satisfy her literary appetite. Before she was nine years old she had read all of Scott's novels, and most of that reading was done in the saddle. It was a boy's saddle up to the time she was eight. Then her English mother, feeling that her notion of the proprieties must be observed, bought the child a red velvet saddle with, as Miss Gates still vividly remembers, three horns. But whether astride or a-side, she continued her reading. Until she was twelve years old she had not gone to school more than two or three months. Her father and her books were her only teachers.

Moved West.

When she was twelve the family moved to California, and the young girl then had two or three years at school. But her earlier teachers must have done their work well, for when she was so young that she had to evade questions as to her age she got a certificate to teach. Before she was twenty she was doing newspaper work in San Francisco and taking special courses at the university across the bay.

Life moved rapidly with Eleanor Gates. She had an enormous capacity for activity and managed to write a book while she was doing enough other work to have kept two ordinary girls fairly busy. Having finished her novel she put the manuscript in her trunk, went to New York, promptly sold the novel, and sat down to write another. She has been keeping up that feat ever since.

She wrote "The Poor Little Rich Girl" in fifty-one days, put it on, made a big success with it, and wrote her second play, "We Are Seven," all inside of twelve months. Incidentally she wrote a few short stories, too, and began a third play. Evidently the habit of doing two things at once, acquired when she was herding cattle and reading books at the same time, is one that persists in spite of changed conditions.

Both of her plays deal with children. In the second, which she describes as "a whimsical farce," she has taken a very serious question—that of eugenics—and treated it with just enough lightness to enable her, as she says, to "put it across." In "We Are Seven" she tries to teach girls to think of their own possible children and of what will contribute to their highest good. She wants girls to think of and plan for their "dream babies" as she calls them.

Founded on Experience.

The idea is one founded on her own experience, for she has always had, in imagination, her own "dream son," standing beside her. He has been so real to her that he even had a name, "Peter," and she has given the same name to one of the "dream children" in her play.

Her interest in children is far more practical, however, than this play of imagination might indicate. It has prompted her to undertake one of the most original and important schemes that have been devised for the conservation of family life. She is planning the erection in New York City of a hotel for mothers who have been left with children to care for and who are obliged to earn their living by teaching or by some other means.

As things are now, these mothers are compelled to leave their children alone, generally in wretched tenement houses, while they go out to work. If a fresh pair of hands is needed, the mother is left to take care of themselves from morning until night. Even when the mother comes home she is too tired to cook them a decent meal or to give them the care and attention which they need.

Miss Gates is planning a hotel where these families can live as cheaply as they do now in the tenements. The meals will be cooked in the hotel kitchen by employees. The mothers will get from the kitchen the meals for themselves and their children, and take them on trays to their rooms.

For Sore, Tired Feet.

Try soaking your stockings in a concentrated solution of boric acid, and dry them before putting on. A fresh pair should be worn daily. Make an antiseptic powder as follows:

Powdered boric acid, one ounce; powdered orris root, one ounce; powdered starch, one ounce; powdered zinc oxide, one ounce; oil of eucalyptus, one ounce. Mix and use plentifully. You will soon find comfort.

Port McHenry as Detention Camp. To relieve congested conditions at the immigrant detention station at Locust Point, Baltimore, Secretary of War Garrison yesterday authorized Secretary of Labor Wilson to use the unoccupied army hospital at Fort McHenry for the detention of aliens suffering from contagious diseases until the new immigrant station, which will be completed in about a year, is ready for occupancy.

In the District Courts

Bertha Wiley was named sole beneficiary and executrix of the will of John Watkins, dated December 23 last and filed for probate yesterday. Testator refers to the beneficiary as one "who cared for me during my last illness."

Trinity Catholic Church of this city is bequeathed \$2,000 in the will of Virginia C. Seymour, dated July 12, 1910, and filed for probate yesterday. Ida S. Wilcox, a sister, is to have \$1,000; Seymour McLeod, \$500; Manning McLeod, \$500, and one fourth of the estate is to go to Pauline Wilcox and the rest is to be divided between Ida S. Wilcox and Alice McLeod.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson

Certain manufacturers whisper of an

incoming fashion for mitts and are de-

signing beautiful mitts of black, colored and white lace, which are most graceful improvements of the original mitt long ago in vogue.

These new styles are made with lace inserted backs and tops, while the palm and thumb portions are so-called woven closely in Italian silk knitted fashion.

Silk gloves are equally ornate and are replete with most elaborate inserts of lace as well as beautifully embroidered designs done in colors or all white in black and white effects, or in self tones.

The results are lovely, attractive, even, and highly artistic.

In fabric gloves and in chamamois the heavy double-seamed stitched types are being steadily demanded.

Such gloves as these are in excellent taste for wear upon a multitude of occasions.

So cleverly is the kid and dogskin glove imitated, many people are deceived regarding the true textures of which the fabric glove is composed. Not even in gray, tan or mocha shades can the deception be easily detected and as these gloves are really kid gloves, cleaned with soap and water—daily, if one desires—they almost seem to improve in appearance after numbers of successive washings, of which proves a boon to those compelled to use them daily.

Stunning silk coat to wear with the new

plaid skirts that are to be so fashionable this spring. It may also be developed in cloth, but the soft, finely corded silks are the last word in the elegance for these new models. The coat is cut square, fastens below the waistline with three large buttons, and is trimmed with revers and cuffs of satin.

To make it requires 3 yards of 44-inch silk, 1 yard of 36-inch satin, and one dozen fancy buttons. If a lining is used, 3 yards of 36-inch silk or satin will be needed.

JOHN H. A. FOWLER TOASTED.

Mount Vernon Commandery Honors Past Grand Commander.

Mount Vernon Commandery, United Order of the Golden Cross, celebrated the birthday of Past Grand Commander John H. A. Fowler by a reception and banquet at Pythian Temple last night.

Past Noble Commander William Musser was toastmaster and in his opening remarks told how much Mount Vernon Commandery appreciated the work of Past Grand Commander Fowler during his twenty-three years' membership, being a charter member of Mount Vernon Commandery. Mr. Fowler is now serving as representative to the Supreme Commandery.

P. N. C. Musser requested the members to rise as an expression of their hearty wish for many more years of active service in the order for Mr. Fowler. A musical program was given by Miss J. G. Rosenbaum, Miss Lena Fowler, Miss Cloyne Wallace, Messrs. William Musser, J. Edward Fowler and Henry M. Fowler. Recitations were given by Mrs. Kate G. Musser and Dr. B. W. Summy.

Evelyn Thaw to Become Catholic.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 20.—Stung by criticism by a Catholic priest from his pulpit Evelyn Nesbit Thaw declares she is already taking steps to enter the Catholic church, and that her son, Russell, would be baptized in that faith.

"Conscience." Thrilling two-reel Western drama today at Colonial Theatre, 22 Pa. ave.

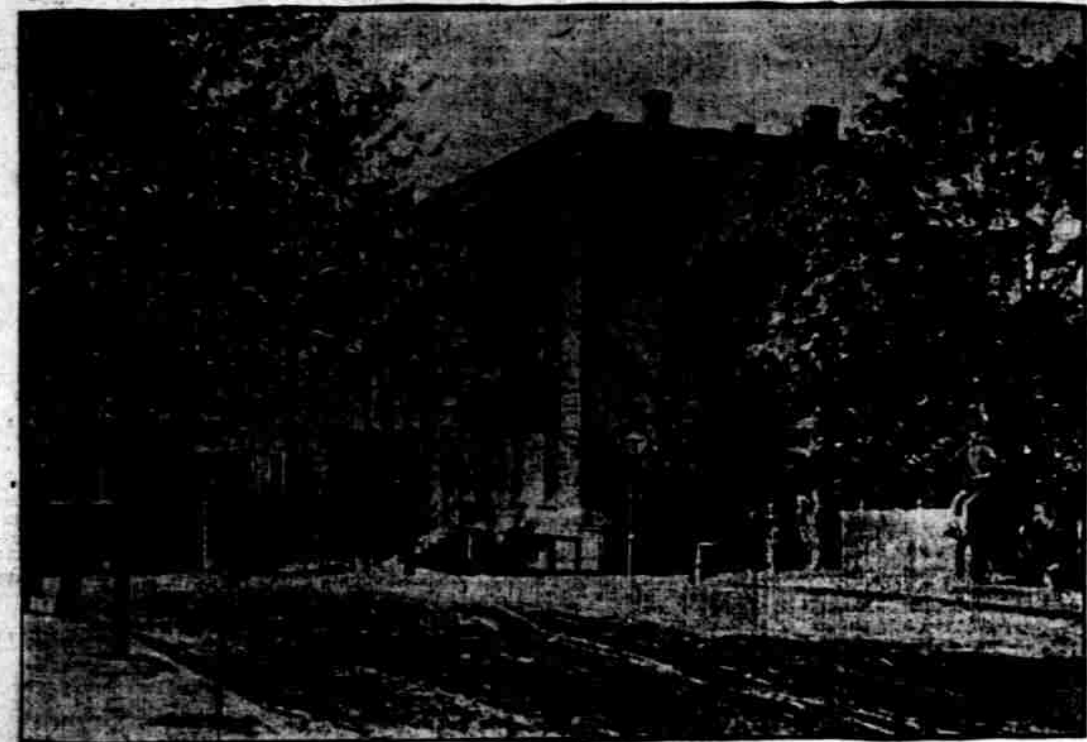
"The Hermit" is a two-part production by the American Film Manufacturing Company, Thomas Ricketts directing, and Edward Cullen in titular role, supported by Winifred Greenwood, George Field and other stars of "Flying A" fame.

It is a heart interest story with a strong grip and dramatization that is at once convincing and real. It is not often that two brothers are hopelessly in love with the same girl and that the nobler character of the two is won by the unscrupulous conduct of the other. This situation is brought about in a masterful manner by the producer, Thomas Ricketts, and the story unravels itself in a free and easy manner.

At the studio of the old Seal Company, Francis Ford has just finished two-reel stories of the civil war.

They are entitled, "A Wartime Reformation" and "In the Fall of '64." Both are thrilling battle stories and in their production 500 extra men were used as soldiers.

Sidney Drew will soon appear in the comedy "A Model Young Man," one he has presented and performed in before theater audiences in every known part of the world. It has been reconstructed for moving pictures and will be produced in the usual Vitaphone style, making it one of the most laughable comedies of the year. The original play was written by Jacques Feutrelle, the celebrated short story writer, who lost his life on the Titanic, with the widely known manager, Henry B. Harris, on their return from Europe. Mr. Drew made a place on the stage and he has never been replaced. In his unique and special line



THE REAR OF PRESIDENT DAVIS' RESIDENCE, THE WHITE HOUSE OF THE CONFEDERACY (From a war-time photograph by Brady; negative in the War Department collection.)

Plato and his family was attributed at the time to the colored servants employed in the Davis house. Two servants were missing that night and others had left the employ of the family at different times.

To one of these renegade negroes it was natural to attribute the outrage, but it was natural also to assume that the incendiary had been prompted to his crime by some clearer head.

Jefferson Davis had many enemies in Richmond, and it was believed that some of them would not hesitate to go to the depth of tampering with household servants to encompass his destruction, or that of his home.

"While little mention was made of the fire in the press, Richmond society talked of little else for some days. Friends of the Confederate president attributed the fire to the influence of escaped Federal prisoners, acting in revenge for their incarceration.

There were persons in Richmond, however, who attributed the act to private enemies of the president within his own circles—Confederates who wished him ill, but dared not attempt open violence against his person.

Negro Man Decamps.

From the diaries of Richmond residents it is possible to trace a narrative of the troubles of the Davis family with their Richmond servants, which were by no means few.

On the night of the fire J. B. Jones, a clerk in the War Department, noting the event in his journal, wrote that "one or two of the (Davis) servants have absconded."

The next day he noted the opposite opinion as to who prompted the Davis negroes to the act of incendiarism attributed to them, adding, "They have one of the servants at the War Department under arrest, as participating in it."

Nearly a month later one of the Davis negroes made a break for liberty. Mr.

Mr. Peter Everett, the only watchman present, put off after him, but before running many steps stumbled and fell, injuring himself severely."

That the negro made for the Federal lines there was little doubt.

Man and Maid Leave.

The troubles of Mr. Davis and his family with their servants did not begin with the attempt at incendiarism.

Mrs. Mary Boykin Chestnut, wife of Gen. James Chestnut, Jr., and an intimate of the Davis family, noted in her diary eleven days before the fire at the White House of the Confederacy that "the President's man, Jim, that he believed in as we all believe in our own servants as we call them, as we call them—and Betsy, Mrs. Davis' maid, decamped last night (January 8). It is miraculous that they have had the fortitude to resist the temptation so long."

The entry continued: "At Mrs. Davis' the hired servants all have been birds of passage. First they are seen with gold galore, and then they would fly to the Yankees; and I am sure they had nothing to tell. It is Yankee money wanted."

Mrs. Chestnut believed that "it had never crossed Mrs. Davis' brain that these two could leave her," adding, however, that Mrs. Davis knew Betsy had \$50 in gold and \$2,000 in Confederate notes—which was surely temptation to a negro, whether slave or free, to take to the road.

Mrs. Chestnut took the view that the fire in the Davis mansion was the work of "bribed servants and some escaped Yankee prisoners." Had the incendiaries waited a few hours, until the family, tired with the reception, were sleeping soundly, Mrs. Chestnut believed their work would have resulted successfully.

Receptions Are Continued.

On the spirits of Mrs. Davis, burdened as she was with the cares of a growing family, and worried with the haunting problem of where proper food was to come from—for the pinch of general short-



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Motion Picture

News A Daily Feature In The Herald

This daily news feature of The Washington Herald is for the benefit of everybody interested in motion pictures.

Suggestions, comments, criticisms, inquiries, and questions invited. Address communications to Motion Picture Editor, Washington Herald.

of parts he has no equal. Already he has become in moving pictures a model comedian, which has proved a revelation, in the subtlety of the art of naturalness, so essential to the silent drama.

CITIZENS WILL URGE RAILWAY EXTENSIONS

Anacostia Committee to Appear Before Public Utilities Commission Monday Morning.

The annual meeting of the Minnesota Avenue Improvement Association was held last night at the offices of Dr. Upton S. Hower in Nichols avenue. Dr. George C. Haveren, president, presided. Dr. Haveren gave an outline of the work accomplished during the past year, the first of the association's existence.

A committee was appointed to appear before the Public Utilities Commission Monday morning to argue in favor of the extension of the street railway between Anacostia, Suitland and Bradbury Heights. President Haveren will be the spokesman. Additional endorsement was also given the movement to secure an Eastern High School in Anacostia.

The employees of the Government Hospital for the Insane gave a dance last night in Hitchcock Hall at the institution. The hall was decorated for this event and music was furnished by the hospital orchestra.

The Potomac League, comprising several baseball teams in the section east of the Eastern Branch, has decided to pay independent baseball again next year. William A. Watson has been re-elected president of the league for the next season. One important decision will be reached shortly and that is whether all games shall be played in Anacostia. It is likely the scheme will be adopted.

TAX BOARD TO HEAR APPEALS.

Daily Sessions Will Be Held from February 2 to March 9.

Approximately 15,000 owners of personal property in the District who failed to submit schedules by their goods in July, 1912, have been notified that on February 2 the board of personal tax appeals will convene in the office of the assessor to hear appeals from assessments.

Daily sessions will be held by the board until March 9, and no appeals will be considered after that date. The board of personal tax appeals is authorized to make assessments from the best information obtainable in cases where the owners fail to deliver the schedule within the time specified. In these cases a penalty of 20 per cent is imposed. The board consists of W. P. Richards, chairman; Alexander McKenzie, E. W. Oyster, W. L. Beale, E. M. Talcott, and B. F. Adams.

Only One Application and the Hairs Are Gone

(Aids to Beauty.)

Here is a simple, yet very effective, treatment for superfluous hairs: With water, mix into a stiff paste enough powdered delatone to cover the objectionable hairs. Apply and let remain 2 or 3 minutes, then rub off and with it comes every bit of hair. The skin should then be washed to free it from the remaining delatone. This is a painless, inexpensive method, and even a stubborn growth yields to the first application. The success of this treatment, of course, depends upon getting real delatone.